

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language is the most important thing for people to communicate each other among the society. Communication has been defined as the way of giving, receiving or exchanging information, ideas and opinions so that the message is understood by the speakers and listeners. Amberg (2009, p.2) states, “Language is foremost a means of communication, and communication almost always takes place within some sorts of social context.” As the system used by the society, language is the way to carry on their activities. That is why effective communication needs understanding between the language and the people who use it.

English language can be divided into two categories, Standard English and Non-standard English. Trudgill (2011) states, “Standard English is the variety generally spoken by those who are often referred to as educated people.” According to Crimmon cited in Abadi (2009, p.2), Standard English has two variants, formal and informal English. Formal English is usually used for formal condition such as research, business, application letter, papers, thesis, seminar, and others. On the other side, informal English is called colloquialism because it is often used in daily communication. While Non-standard English is a language which contains expressions which are regarded as ‘incorrect’ or unusual used (Anggrisia, 2011, p.2). Slang is included in Non-standard English.

In this modern era, teenagers turn to create a language variety. Anggrisia (2011, p.2) states that teenagers develop a new language which is ungrammatical and easier to communicate. The new language is known as slang. Mish (2003, p.1170) mentions, “Slang is an informal nonstandard vocabulary composed typically of coinages, arbitrarily changed words, and extravagant, forced, or facetious figures of speech.” Slang is usually famous among certain group of people. For example, slang is used among the teenagers or professional groups. It

is not usually used in speech or academic writing. Hudson (1980, p.11) states that slang can be characterized as an informal language variety with new and non polite words and meaning. Slang is usually used in social media, song lyrics, teen magazine, and many others.

Slang in song lyrics is also form of communication. Through a song, the singer can deliver the messages to the listener. There are many kinds of music such as pop, R&B, rock, jazz, classic, hip-hop, rap, and others. Some examples of slangs found in song lyrics are Ain't = am not; is not; are not; has not; have not; was not; were not; does not; do not, Y'all = you all, Nigga = a black person; a deliberate misspelling; reinventing, I'ma = to preface an intention; A slurred elision of 'I am going to'; 'I'm like.

One of American singers, Shawn Corey Carter, uses slang in his song lyrics. He is known by his stage name, Jay Z. Jay Z is an American rapper, record producer, and entrepreneur. According to the *Celebrity Net Worth*, he is the second famous rapper in America with the highest fee, \$550 Million. He is also one of the most successful hip-hop artists and entrepreneurs in America. During his music career from his first album in 1995 till the last album in 2013, there are 12 studio albums and 5 collaboration albums. One of his studio albums is *Magna Carta Holy Grail*. This album which consists of 17 songs has many slang words.

Based on the problems above, the writer wants to write the final report with the title, "*The Study of Slangs Found in the Lyrics of Jay Z's Songs.*"

1.2 Problems

The problems of the study are as follows :

1. What classifications of slangs are found in the lyrics of Jay Z's songs in his album *Magna Carta Holy Grail*?
2. What is the dominant slang word and its classification found in Jay Z's songs in his album *Magna Carta Holy Grail*?

1.3 Purposes

The purpose of the problems are as follows :

1. To find out classifications of slangs found in the lyric of Jay Z's songs in his album *Magna Carta Holy Grail*.
2. To find out the dominant slang word and its classification found in Jay Z's songs in his album *Magna Carta Holy Grail*.

1.4 Benefits

The benefit of the study is to give information to the students of English Department at Sriwijaya State Polytechnic about the classification of slang in lyrics of Jay Z's songs.